

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: August 2, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Court Reporters' Association

BILL NUMBER: SB 1181
AUTHOR: G. Cedillo

BILL SUMMARY: Shorthand Reporters: Transcript Reimbursement

This bill would extend the sunset date of the Transcript Reimbursement Fund (TRF) from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2013 and would authorize a low-income litigant without an attorney to apply for reimbursement for court transcript costs from the TRF until January 1, 2013, subject to specified requirements and limitations.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Court Reporter's Board (Board) indicates that any costs resulting from this bill would be minor and absorbable. The Board anticipates a 10 to 15 percent increase in TRF applications (approximately 43 to 64) per year based on the expansion of eligibility to include low-income per se litigants. This bill would cap the amount of reimbursement at \$1,500 per case and \$30,000 per year.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the June 22, 2010 version would make technical and clarifying changes which do not change our position. These changes include extending related provisions to correspond with the proposed sunset date of the TRF, reducing the maximum amount of free transcription services to \$1,500 per case and revising the reporting date from January 1, 2012 to March 1, 2012.

COMMENTS

Existing law:

- Provides for certification of shorthand reporters by the Board.
- Requires certain fees and revenues collected by the Board to be deposited in the TRF, to be available to provide reimbursement for the cost of providing shorthand reporting services to low-income litigants in civil cases.
- Provides that individuals representing themselves at any stage of a case are not eligible to apply for funds from the TRF.
- Requires all unencumbered funds remaining in the TRF as of January 1, 2011, to be transferred to the Court Reporters' Fund, and repeals these provisions as of January 1, 2011.

This bill would: (1) extend the sunset date of the TRF by two years, (2) expand the authority to apply for TRF funds to low-income persons representing themselves who qualify for a fee waiver, (3) cap the amount of free transcription services provided to indigents at \$30,000 per year and \$1,500 per case, and (4) require the Board to submit a report on the reimbursement claims and status of the TRF as a result of this bill, as specified, to the Senate and Assembly Committee on Judiciary by March 1, 2012.

Analyst/Principal (0282)J. Carosone	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Nona Martinez	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

SB 1181

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	
1110/ConAfr-ReqBd	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0410
1110/ConAfr-ReqBd	SO	No	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact				-----	0771
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0410	Transcript Reimbursement Fund								
0771	Court Reporters Fund								

